

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

November 6th, 2016

“Let all those that seek
THEE rejoice and be glad in
THEE: let such as love THY
salvation say continually,
The LORD be magnified.”

PSALM 40:16

JOSEPH D. MURPHY, PASTOR

WEBSITE

PurposedGrace.org

ADDRESS

**23033 Hughey Avenue
New Caney, Texas 77357-4993**

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2160 77357-2160

PHONE

(832) 543 5333 / (832) 995 7925 cell

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Schedule of Services

Sunday School	10:00 am
Sunday Worship	11:00 am
Wednesday Worship	7:00 pm

Nursery

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

Happy Birthday!

Patricia Young - November 9th

This evening's featured podcast speaker will be PASTOR DONALD BELL

REVELATION 5:1-14—WHO IS WORTHY?

To find our podcast search for the keyword **PurposedGrace** on



Apple's **Podcast App** or



Google's **Play Music App**

***Our featured sermon is made available every Sunday at 6:00 PM**

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, I AM WHAT I AM

“...BY THE GRACE OF GOD I AM WHAT I AM: AND HIS GRACE WHICH WAS BESTOWED UPON ME WAS NOT IN VAIN; BUT I LABOURED MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN THEY ALL: YET NOT I, BUT THE GRACE OF GOD WHICH WAS WITH ME.” (1 CORINTHIANS 15:10)

I am not one of GOD's elect because of something good GOD saw in me. There never was, is not now, and never will be any good in our flesh. “*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing.*” (ROMANS 7:18) Paul said he knew it. The problem with most religious folks is that they don't know it and until they do, they will continue to brag and boast of what they have done for GOD.

I am not one of GOD's elect because of something GOD saw I would do. Left to my own will, I would have continued in darkness and even now would depart from GOD.

I am not one of GOD's elect because GOD needed me. It bothers me when we leave the impression with anyone that GOD, or the church of the LORD JESUS can profit in any way from our presence, influence or gifts. When will we ever learn that we are receivers and beggars? There is not one ounce of goodness in any son of Adam that could be used to

commend one's self to GOD. *"What hast thou that thou didst not receive?"* (1 CORINTHIANS 4:7)

By the grace of GOD, I am what I am. It was grace that set me apart before time was. It was HIS grace that laid hold of me when I was in the pit and brought me to the LORD JESUS. And if it be my lot to continue in the faith, to grow in faith and love, to die in hope, and be raised in glory, it will be all of grace. Thanks be unto Him who alone is worthy of glory and honor.

*'Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come,
And I hope by Thy good pleasure;
Safely to arrive at home.'*

PASTOR **SCOTT RICHARDSON**

"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake."

(PSALM 115:1)

WHAT KIND OF IMPRESSION DO WE LEAVE?

"...SHEWING ALL GOOD FIDELITY; THAT THEY MAY ADORN THE DOCTRINE OF GOD OUR SAVIOUR IN ALL THINGS." (1 TIMOTHY 2:10)

Several years ago I applied for a home improvement loan at a local bank. I did not deal with the President of the bank nor an officer of the bank but with one of the employees. This man was quite rude and unkind to me, causing me to cancel my account at that bank and move to another. The only contact I had with the bank was with this very poor representative, but it was enough to discourage me from going there again.

You and I represent our LORD, the gospel of the LORD JESUS, and the church of the firstborn. The only contact some people have with the church and the kingdom of GOD is through us. What kind of impression, what idea of Christianity do we convey to them? I wonder if they do not sometimes walk away offended, disappointed, resolved not to inquire further into our faith or listen to our message. I realize that we are frail creatures, subject to all of the limitations of the flesh; but we need to set a watch on our lips, control our tempers, and put forth a special effort to adorn the gospel of His grace. If we endure persecution for the gospel's sake, well and good, but **NOT FOR OUR OWN FAULTS!**

PASTOR **HENRY MAHAN**

WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN AM I STRONG

“... I TAKE PLEASURE IN INFIRMITIES, IN REPROACHES, IN NECESSITIES, IN PERSECUTIONS, IN DISTRESSES FOR CHRIST'S SAKE: FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN AM I STRONG.” (2 CORINTHIANS 12:10)

How faint the best praise! How wandering the best prayer! How selfish the best gift! When we feel that we are nearest to GOD, how far off we are! When we feel that we are most like GOD, how unlike GOD we are! What did the apostle say? *“When I am weak then am I strong.”* Our strength is always CHRIST, never in anything we are or do.

PASTOR **HENRY MAHAN**

BY HIM I BELIEVE

“WHO BY HIM DO BELIEVE IN GOD, THAT RAISED HIM UP FROM THE DEAD, AND GAVE HIM GLORY; THAT YOUR FAITH AND HOPE MIGHT BE IN GOD.” (1 PETER 1:21)

All false religion is under the delusion that salvation is granted through something man does; nothing could be further from the truth!

I trust you will notice these two blessed words in 1 Peter chapter 1 verse 21 *“by Him”*. To my awakened brother and sister, I trust those two words testify to your experience in CHRIST, that *“by Him”*, by the LORD JESUS CHRIST, you find yourself believing GOD.

GOD's people are not born of blood (a believer is not made a believer because his parents are Christian, as is the case with the Islamists and Roman Catholics). GOD's people are not born of the will of the flesh (one does not become a believer because one exercises his or her own will to make a decision). GOD's people are not born of the will of man (one does not become a believer because a group of people got together to pray). If you find yourself believing GOD, it is by GOD's redeeming, regenerating power in CHRIST. Beloved, the eternal gospel declares that His people *“were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* (JOHN 1:13)

Our LORD declared *“...thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.”* (JOHN 17:3) The power our LORD has over all flesh is the life giving power HE gives to HIS people, whereby HE grants them eternal life, making them willing and able to savingly believe GOD (The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit).

Beloved, *“by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”* If you believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST, it is by HIM you believe GOD. Just as surely as Lazarus coming forth from the tomb was by the LORD JESUS CHRIST, beloved of GOD, your coming forth from the tomb of your unbelief was *“by Him”*. Amen!

PASTOR